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SOURCE Revista Padurilor Lemnului Si Hartiei.IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RUMANIAN LUMBER AND WOOD-PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Mihai Szudor, Ministerial Adviser

The lumber and wood-products industry in Rumania faces the broad task of expansion and modernization

In the first place, if our future generations are to be provided with wood, we must reforest entire mountains which are now barren because of the capitalists.

In the second place, to obtain adequate supplies of wood for the development of our heavy industry, we must open new sources of exploitation, the so called sunken basins. To that end, we must build new roads, railroads, and funicular railroads to gain access to these sunken basins, so that the timber cut there can be transported to the industrial centers of the country.

At the same time, we must build new sawmills, as well as new barrel, cellulose, and furniture factories, etc., so that our country, which until now has exported lumber, stumps, and firewood, may export cellulose, barrels, trunks (wooden chests), barrel parts, furniture, paper, pasteboard, panels (door panels, etc.), matches, and other finished products. Such exports will help to raise both the economic level of our country and the standard of living of our workers.

The forest industry has experienced unprecedented progress under the guidance of the party and the government. Nevertheless, numerous shortcomings were clearly and precisely pointed out in the joint decision of the Central Committee of the party and the Council of Ministers. Some of these shortcomings have already been eliminated, and appropriate measures are being taken to overcome some of the others. For instance, in 1950 - 1951, the timber-cutting program was launched on schedule for the first time; the production plan schedules specific tasks for each management, trust, exploitation unit, machine, and individual; the standards of labor have been extensively revised, and fair wages have been established

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in the lumber, wood-products and transportation industries and the living conditions of workers in the lumber and wood-products industries have been improved by the construction of new barracks, which are equipped with all necessary facilities. These buildings house 11,555 workers.

For medical attention, a total of 48 dispensaries, 65 infirmaries, 18 pharmacies, 342 first-aid stations, and 805 first-aid kits have been made available, all of which are provided with the necessary medical supplies.

Schools for supervisors have been opened at the following trusts:

Campulung Trust

Frasin Factory, 40 students

Malini Factory, 40 students

Targu Mures Trust

Reghin Factory, 40 students

Bucharest Trust

Maneciu Factory, 40 students

Other schools will be opened this winter.

To improve the working conditions of unskilled laborers and of factory workers, measures have been taken to mechanize the transportation system in the following factories: Ioanis, Onesti, Toplita, Reghin, Chiseu, Sebes, Comanesti, Frasin, Vama, Moldavita, and Gugesti.

For the purpose of enhancing the value of lumber remnants, which until now were utilized as firewood or thrown away, new by-product divisions have been added to several factories, including the following: "20 December," "Republic," "Magura Codlei," "Reghin," "Simo Gheza," "Burcea," "Technica Lemnului," "Mobila Populara," "Butoiul," "Brezoiu," "Curtea de Arges," etc. In these divisions, products in great demand are turned out from lumber remnants, i.e., large and small barrels, children's toys, spools, school articles and others.

Much has been done to make use of the beech tree as an industrial raw material. In collaboration with the Institute of Forestry Research and Technical Management, as well as with the Institute of Forest Projects, some plants have been adapted to the working of beech wood, and to that end were provided with electric saws and steam boilers. This change took place at the following plants: Targu Neamt, Manastur, Vasiova, Sovata, Falticeni, Onesti, and others. Also, with a view to utilizing the beech tree, laboratory research has been carried out aiming at the chemical conversion of beech wood into cellulose by means of the sulfate method which is likewise used in producing artificial silk. The laboratory-research results were satisfactory. We must now install the necessary equipment for the production of cellulose in large quantities, through the utilization of beech in the existing factories and in those which will be built as part of the Five-Year Plan. Within this scope, large cellulose-manufacturing centers will be built during these 5 years. Also, for the purpose of commercializing the beech tree, staves for beer barrels are now being retailed in quantity, and beech stumps are being conserved during the summer months by applying a tar-base substance on the ends. Further research is in progress.

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The artificial indoor drying of oakwood is being studied. Such drying is now accomplished in 70 days, instead of 5 years, as in the past, thus reducing the losses, which until now were from 20 percent to 80 percent. Further research is in progress.

Labor in the field of lumbering is in the course of mechanization. Small-scale mechanization was introduced by making use of the advanced Soviet methods, by adapting the KT-12 tractor and electric and frame saws for work in our forests. A labor system based on the division of labor was also introduced. Furthermore, work brigades have been organized in the lumbering regions to create optimum conditions for socialist competitions initiated by the workers and assisted and guided by the party and trade union organizations. As a result of this measure, the average wages increased as follows (in lei):

Per-Capita Salaries

1949 -- 5,700
 1950 -- 6,800

Per-Capita Wages

1949 -- 5,440
 1950 -- 6,580

Beginning with the first 3 months of 1951, it will be possible to measure concretely the results obtained in consequence of the joint decision of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Council of Ministers.

However, there are still many deficiencies; consequently, as a remedy, we must apply ourselves diligently for a long time to come. Under the guidance of the party, and with the moral and material assistance of the Soviet Union, as well as with the aid of the trade unions, particularly of the Forestry and Wood-Products Unions, we shall overcome these hardships and develop the forest industry to a degree never before attained in our country.

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